

DEA: AIR, LAND & SEA

Learning Opportunity



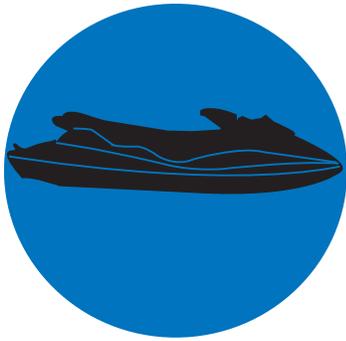
AIR



LAND



SEA



Objective

The Drug Enforcement Administration is a multifaceted federal agency mandated to take the lead in drug law enforcement. That lead requires the commitment of many people in a variety of positions. DEA: Air, Land and Sea will give you a unique view of how some areas of drug law enforcement are conducted.

Goal

The study of history and social sciences is vital in society, especially as it applies to illegal use of drug in this country. This lesson plan provides an integrated learning opportunity in the following areas:

History:

The DEA commitment to staying off illegal drugs in this country is supported by the history which illustrates the consequences of drug use in many civilizations, past and present.

Geography:

Through the use of maps, tables, aerial imagery, photographs and websites, the student will see how climate and terrain facilitate drug production.

Civics:

Accepting responsibility for actions is a primary lesson in civics. The suggested discussion activities allow the student to explore the impact of illegal drug use in the U.S. and how it affects principals and values.

Economics:

This is an opportunity to explore a unique economic system - the "illegal corporate world" of a drug organization and how it affects the world economy. Students can apply the market economy philosophy of Supply and Demand directly to illegal enterprise..

Applicable Standards of Learning

Computer Technology

C/T5.3, C/T5.4, C/T8.4

Civics and Economics

7.6, 7.8, 12.15, 12.16

Geography

10.2, 10.3, 10.4, 10.7, 10.9, 10.10, 10.12, 10.13, 10.14, 11.17, 11.18

English

10.7, 10.9, 10.10, 11.1, 11.2, 11.9, 12.1

Introduction

This lesson plan begins as a scenario in which you assume the role of a DEA Agent. You will extract information from the exhibit and supplement it with details that are included in this book. As you proceed, there are questions to answer and activities to accomplish. You will also access Internet websites for background information about the country in which you will work.



Scenario

You will assume the role of a DEA Special Agent recently assigned to the DEA office in **Bogota, Colombia**. Your tour of duty will last for 2 - 4 years. Depending on your new assignment, language school may be required. This language school is intensive training and you must graduate with the ability to communicate with your foreign counterparts.

A medical examination is required for you and your family before you are cleared to go to a foreign post of duty. You will visit a State Department medical facility to determine whether you or a family member has any type of medical condition which could require emergency treatment. Immediate medical treatment may not be available in many foreign countries. This situation may affect your consideration for this post of duty.

Activity

After successful completion of language school, you and your family will be cleared by the DEA and the State Department and issued Diplomatic passports and visas. Having a Diplomatic passport is a serious responsibility. You become representatives of the United States and must conduct your business and daily life with the highest standards.

Research the Diplomatic requirements for DEA personnel at the following website:

www.state.gov

use search to locate:

**Diplomatic Privileges and Immunities
Legal Aspects of Diplomatic Immunity
and Privileges (source is a chart)**

Activity

On the map provided , label all of the countries.





Country Briefing

Geography:

Colombia's strategic location makes it the center of drug trade in South America. It has two coastlines: The **Pacific Ocean** on the west side and the **Caribbean Sea** to the north. This makes it valuable for drug traffickers because it offers two corridors or pathways from which to ship drugs towards the United States.

Activity

Locate and label **Bogota** on the map (above).

Activity

As a DEA Agent you will be interacting with law enforcement officials in other countries. *Identify the countries surrounding Colombia on the map.*

List the official languages in the following countries:

1. Colombia _____
2. Peru _____
3. Panama _____
4. Brazil _____
5. Venezuela _____
6. Ecuador _____

Research will provide you with important background information not found in the exhibit.

www.dea.gov/concern/drug_traffickingp.html
**Drug Trafficking in the United States
Trafficking by Colombian and
Mexican Organizations**

http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/americas/country_profiles.stm

www.cia.gov/cia/publications/factbook/geos/co.html



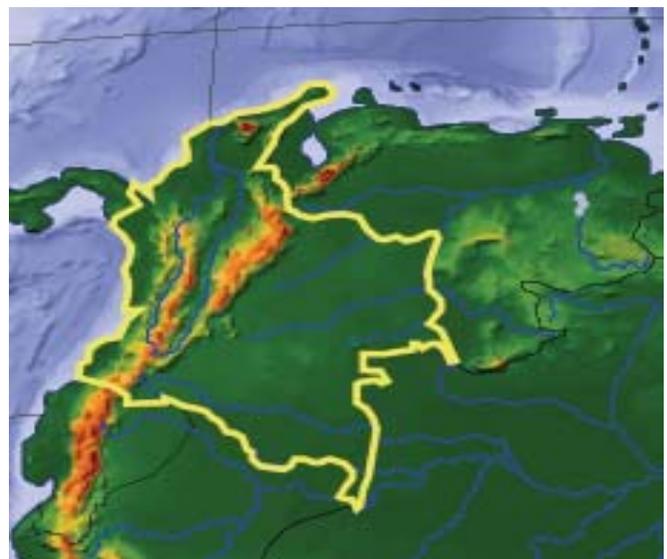
Coca fields are generally grown in terraced patches on the mountainside where access is difficult.

The coca bushes are grown in terraced rows, usually on very steep hillsides. They are pruned and nurtured to assure maximum production. Water is often supplied by hand carried buckets.

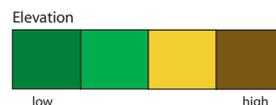
There are six geographic regions in Colombia which help drug organizations:

- 1. The Guajira Peninsula** is flat and well suited for airstrips. It also has a coastline which accommodates cocaine filled go-fast boats destined for the Caribbean or central America.
- 2. The North Coast** is filled with broad rivers, beaches, swamps and high cliffs which offer access and protection.
- 3. The Pacific Coast** includes beaches, broad rivers, dense jungles and swamps for easy camouflage.
- 4. The Andean Mountain Ranges** are dominated by high, rugged peaks which inhibit counter-drug operations.
- 5. The Lowlands** are underdeveloped, grassy plains. Much of the coca cultivation and cocaine processing takes place in this area. It is very isolated which also helps the farmers and guerillas avoid government counterdrug operations.
- 6. The Rain Forest** is a large area of dense jungle which makes it difficult for authorities to patrol.

*Below is a **topographical** map of Colombia which indicates elevation. The dark brown areas are mountains and the dark green areas are lowlands which surround the rivers.*



Legend



The Business

Colombian drug lords have pursued their business with the same sophistication as any international company. They have developed well-organized transportation over land, air and sea into the United States. There are vast networks that operated in “cells”. A single cell is a group who perform a specific task such as transportation, local distribution, money movement or laundering. Most often, members of one cell do not know members of other cells or their function. This entire group of cells is monitored and regulated by high ranking managers in Colombia.

The Players

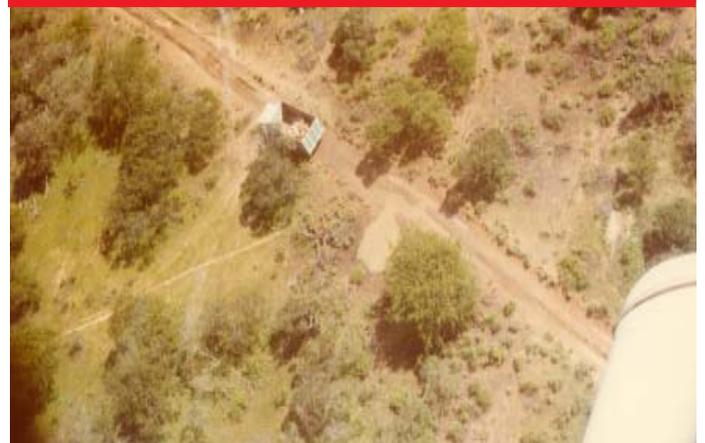
In the past, the Colombians loaded planes and fishing vessels with the cocaine and shipped it to Mexico. The Mexican traffickers redistributed the cocaine through other methods of transportation and then moved it across the Southwest border of the United States. Once across the border, the Mexicans turned the shipments back over to the Colombians waiting inside the U.S. However, in the past 10 years, the volume of cocaine has become so enormous that the Colombians have turned to the Mexicans for assistance in this redistribution. They realized that a partnership would enhance the business and also share the losses they suffer from seizures.

Trafficking

The eastern **Pacific Ocean** is the main route for cocaine into the United States. Law enforcement sources estimate 65% of the shipments move through this corridor by ocean-going vessels. Colombians move their shipments by fishing vessels to the coasts off Mexico. It is then off-loaded into go-fast boats which transport it to land. The loads are then broken down into smaller quantities to be shipped across the border by land and air.



Air surveillance can locate processing labs or packaging centers in remote areas.



Loads are transported to the coast in a variety of methods such as by helicopter or truck, depending on the terrain.

from jungle to the high seas.....

Increasingly, cocaine is shipped through the **Caribbean** to include **Puerto Rico, the Dominican Republic, Jamaica, the Bahamas and Haiti**. This has been a serious threat because of the endless miles of unguarded shoreline in the region. Once the shipments are off-loaded, they are put onto go-fast, or ciagrette boats, pleasure craft and fishing vessels which can easily smuggle it into the United States, Canada or Europe.



Many hidden airstrips create an ideal facility for small planes to load and unload. Maintenance of the field is often provided by a close-by resident for a nominal fee.



Loads of cocaine are transported by truck from the jungle to awaiting vessels which transport them to larger ships, or possibly carry the load directly its destination.



Drugs are camouflaged at the back of this boat.



“Go-fast cigarette” boats, while designed for pleasure, provide drug traffickers additional means to evade capture because of their high speed abilities.

The Destinations

Today, the Colombians traffickers manage the wholesale distribution of cocaine to the east coast of the United States. Their primary targets are the densely populated cities of Boston, Miami, Newark, New York, and Philadelphia.

The Mexican traffickers have assumed the role of distribution to the West and Midwest- funneling distribution into Chicago, Dallas, Denver, Houston, Los Angeles, Phoenix, San Diego, San Francisco and Seattle.

Activity

Based on what you have just read, develop a trafficking map showing the cocaine routes and the method of shipment below.

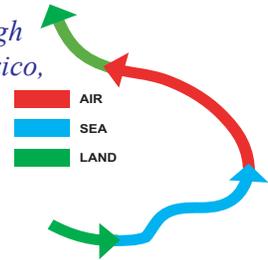
Colombian Trafficking Routes Into The United States

1. **Create** a legend. This is a “key” that will make your map easy to understand. You will show 3 types of routes (air, land, sea). Draw each arrow with a different color.

2. **Locate** the country of origin (Colombia).

3. **Track** the Pacific Ocean routes and the Caribbean routes as they have been described. *Your routes will take you through more than one country and then into the final destination. They will begin with one method of transportation and change into another. The sample below will give you an idea of a typical route.*

Example: Colombia through jungle, to the coast to Mexico, across border into Texas, to Chicago.



Use the blank legend below. Fill in the arrows with colors of your choice.

Legend

AIR

LAND

SEA



DEA: Air, Land and Sea Operations

As a DEA Agent in Colombia you must have a thorough knowledge of air, land, and sea operations. In a typical week an agent may have to fly in a helicopter to a remote location in the mountains to locate a cocaine processing lab, navigate a boat up-river to follow a lead on a shipment, or walk miles into a thick jungle to locate drug cultivation areas.



Threat Assessment

The illicit drug trade in Colombia affects the legal economy. Because the profits are so enormous, poor farmers chose to work for the illegal drug enterprises where they can make more money. It also affects the stability of the democratic government because the leaders of the drug organizations maintain power and control of the people they employ. In addition, terrorists and guerillas continually threaten U.S. citizens working for international businesses and especially target U.S. personnel involved in any counterdrug activities.

Colombia has two major revolutionary terrorist groups.

1. The **FARC** (Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia)
2. The **ELN** (National Liberation Army)



Both groups are rivals but are closely associated with the Colombian drug cartels where they serve as security forces and aid in the transportation of the drugs. These groups focus on destroying political, economic and social ties with the United States. They feel that Americans are destroying their culture and taking away their power.



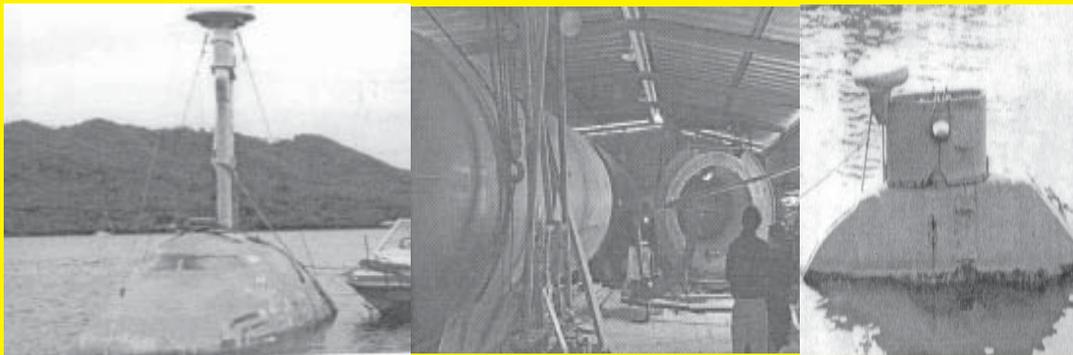
How does a DEA Agent Begin to Build a Case?

A DEA Agent must establish information about drug operations in his/her area. These are some of the many ways to develop a case:

1. A call or visit from an informant (someone who wants to pass on information about an illegal operation or a violator).
2. Information passed on by local law enforcement.
3. Interception of a shipment which could lead to an interview with a trafficker.
4. Tracing vehicles (cars, boats planes, etc.) that are involved in a seizure can lead to information about the people who owned or rented them.
5. Tracing trafficker phone numbers.
6. Placing wiretaps to listen in on conversations between traffickers.
7. Working with other federal agencies.

Two Innovative Drug Organizations

On September 7, 2000 the Colombian National Police seized a partially constructed submarine from a warehouse in Bogota, Colombia. Information suggests that if completed, it could have transported up to a 10 metric ton load of drugs from Colombia to remote sites in Latin America and the Caribbean.



Fishing trawler with bales of cocaine.



Social Issues

Colombia has a rich culture reflecting the indigenous Indians, Spanish and African origins. It is the third most populated country in South America and has substantial oil reserves, gold, silver, emeralds, platinum and coal.

With all these riches, it is still a very separated society. The descendants of the Spanish immigrants have benefited from this wealth far more than the native majority who are of mixed races. This has led to considerable support of the paramilitary insurgent groups. These insurgents are usually on the payroll of the drug lords and large landowners and even backed by some individuals in the police and military. They primarily target human rights workers and those suspected of helping counterdrug efforts.

In Colombia, drug-related death is second only to cancer. It has the world's highest rate of kidnapping. These two elements make it one of the most violent countries in the world.

Population: **44.2 million**

Major language: **Spanish**

Major Religion: **Christianity**

Life Expectancy: **69 years (men),
75 years (women)**

Monetary unit: **Peso**

Main exports: **Petroleum, coffee, coal,
gold, bananas, cut flowers,
chemicals, emeralds, cotton
products, sugar, livestock**

Average annual family income:

\$1,890 (U.S. dollars)



Activity



Discussion 1

A DEA Agent working in a foreign country is subject to additional laws and restrictions not only from the U.S. Government, but also from the government of the country in which he/she is working. These laws and codes affect his/her daily activity.

Research the following:

www4.law.cornell.edu/uscode/22/2291.html

refer to **(c) Mansfield Amendment**

www.state.gov

use “search” to locate **Diplomatic Privileges and Immunities**

Legal Aspects of Diplomatic Immunity and Privileges

(source is a chart)

Based on your research at the above sites, do you believe that a diplomatic representative of the United States Government should be allowed special privileges in a foreign country? Do you believe that a diplomatic representative of a foreign country should be allowed special privileges while working in the United States? What positive and or negative impact would law enforcement experience if it was prohibited from working in a foreign country?

Discussion 2

As drug cartels have evolved, their business practices have become extremely sophisticated. Small groups have grown into organizations set up just like large corporations. The advent of high speed communications and travel have opened the door to global markets. The Colombian cartels have expanded their corporate organizations to include other nationalities. What positive impact does a **multinational organization** provide? What problems could arise with such diversity?

Activity

Discussion 3

Drug suppliers say that without a demand for drugs there is no market. The United States has the largest demand for drugs in the world. If you were writing a drug policy for the U.S. to follow, how would you divide funds between enforcement, education and treatment?

Discussion 4

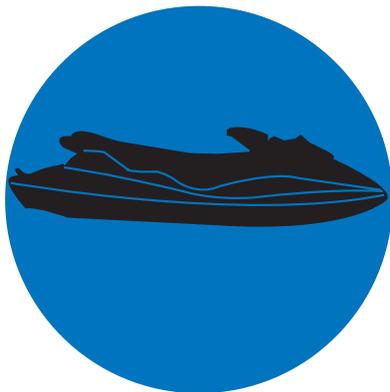
Do you believe foreign countries should be forced to participate in drug law enforcement efforts? Who do you believe should determine how much participation is fair?

Discussion 5

Do you think drugs laws are necessary? Explain. Do you see a similarity between the need for drug laws and the regulation of alcohol and tobacco?

Discussion 6

Do you believe the scientific evidence about the health risks associated with drug use, alcohol use and tobacco use?



AirLandSea



DRUG ENFORCEMENT ADMINISTRATION

MUSEUM
& VISITORS CENTER

DEA Museum & Visitors Center
700 Army Navy Drive
Arlington, VA 22202
(202) 307-3463
Fax (202) 307-8956